

shortly, reach every member of the State Society. All those who were members-at-large at the time of the Santa Barbara meeting, April last, owe the Society three dollars, irrespective of whether they have subsequently joined an affiliated county society or not. Most of these members have paid, some have not; please pay up! Make remittances for dues to Dr. George H. Evans, secretary, 807 Sutter street, San Francisco.

THE CITY AND COUNTY HOSPITAL.

The JOURNAL's comments in the August number on the needs of the City and County Hospital of San Francisco, and the methods of use of the \$10,000 extra appropriation, have resulted in further information on the subject, some of this having come voluntarily and some in response to inquiry.

The resident physician, who is the executive officer of the Board of Health, states that one of the difficulties he has to contend with is inefficient employes and too frequent changes of them; that to secure better men and to keep them longer he has to pay more in wages and salaries, and that this is one way of distinctly improving the service and adding to the comfort of the patients. Independent testimony supports this contention of the resident physician.

In the present condition of the labor market it is easy to understand that every one holds his labor at a higher figure than a short while ago, but it is yet to be shown that the world is getting its work done in a better way because of the higher price it is paying for it, and it would be somewhat extraordinary if the microcosm of the hospital differed in this from the macrocosm about it. Surely it will not benefit from the increased pay given unless the inefficient are weeded out, for no bad servant can be made into a good one by giving him higher wages. But the JOURNAL agrees, as it might be supposed it would do, from what it said in August, that a number of the officers should command higher pay than they did or than they do.

The JOURNAL commented favorably in August on the proposed increase in the number of nurses, and it is now informed that there are ten or twelve more nurses in the hospital than there were a year ago; but it has also learned that these do not count for what they were expected to in the wards, and that they have not materially improved conditions there. It is possible that these women, being still probationers, cannot do what may be reasonably expected of them in time, but even now they should be able to set free from day duty enough junior or senior nurses to increase the night force, which the

JOURNAL is informed is still inadequate. Granting that the full quota of nurses has been filled, they are not enough; but the prospect of adding to them is not great, for it will need the appropriation of more money and the building of an addition to the nurses' home, which is at present too small.

The JOURNAL also announced that it would be interested in the way the balance of the \$10,000 was to be expended, and it has learned these facts regarding this point: There are now in the hospital more than forty more patients than there were a year ago, and the chances are that the number will be kept up above last year's average; and this increased number of patients must result in an increase of expense. Some of this money will go in that way. The prices of the staple foods, particularly meat, milk and flour, have advanced, and some more of the money will go in that way. However, it is claimed that there will still be a residue for special betterments, and among these new sterilizers and an X-ray outfit were mentioned. It is difficult to say which of these is the more important, but the need of the latter is obvious and it should have been put in long ago.

In spite of this critical spirit of the JOURNAL regarding these special matters, it is still of the opinion, and frankly acknowledges it, that not enough money is given for this service, in the first place, and it knows that everything everybody wants cannot be gotten for 0.70c per caput per diem. This part of the fault lies with the Supervisors, for no matter what may be their opinion of the motives or acts of the Board of Health, they should know that it is an impossibility for any board, good, bad or indifferent, to conduct a proper hospital in a proper way on this amount, and still more impossible to conduct an improper hospital properly.

THIS IS YOUR JOURNAL.

It is certainly a pleasure to know that the labors of the Publication Committee are appreciated, and that the members of the Society are pleased with their JOURNAL. A number of very nice letters have been received, and we wish to thank the writers for their kindly expressed good wishes. But there seem to have been some misunderstandings which it is desirable to point out. To this end the letter from the president of the San Bernardino County Medical Society is printed in full on page 341. Subscriptions to the JOURNAL are included in the dues paid to the county society to which a member belongs, and we wish to call the attention of all who are not clear on this point to the following statement:

On page 197, of the June number of the JOURNAL will be found the following resolution

which was passed at the Santa Barbara meeting:

Resolved: That out of the funds contributed by, and belonging to the members of the Medical Society of the State of California, the Trustees are authorized to appropriate such an amount as is necessary to secure the subscription of each member to the California State Journal of Medicine.

The payment of dues to a county society secures first, membership in the county and in the State societies; and second, the subscription to the JOURNAL and to the Register of Physicians of California, shortly to be issued. The county society pays to the State Society an annual assessment per capita; out of the funds so secured the Trustees have appropriated sufficient funds to secure the subscription of each member to the STATE JOURNAL, and consequently no further sum is required from members of affiliated county medical societies. It is certainly gratifying to see the number of men who are anxious to pay not

only their dues to the county society, but a subscription to the JOURNAL as well. The JOURNAL has not reached the plane it set for itself, but it is steadily nearing it. We are doing our very best to make it all that it should be and when members write of "our JOURNAL," we feel that our efforts are meeting with some modicum of success. Each member of every county society in the State should think and speak of the JOURNAL in that way; as his JOURNAL; his individual property; something that he has helped to make and something in which he has an individual ownership and interest. When the time comes that this is the case, the JOURNAL will have succeeded in its desires and intentions and will have the very best warrant for existence. We have several times asked that "kicks" be sent in to the office; we mean that, too, but we would here take the opportunity of mildly hinting that we do not object to "a few kind words" now and then.

National Bureau of Medicines and Foods.

The *Western Druggist*, in a four-page editorial, violently and virulently assails the proposed plan for a National Bureau to secure betterment in the medicines and foods of the country. Without at this time calling up the whole argument of the publication in question, nor demonstrating the reason for its bias, which will be done in due time, I simply desire to reply to one statement. The statement is made that the proposed measure of certification of worthy products is new, chimerical, foolish, impractical, untried, poor logic, and generally puerile and idiotic. All of which is simply misstatement of fact. In Minnesota the flour industry has been purged of adulteration entirely by means of a plan of certification of pure flour; and this result was reached not through a large organization, but through a small private organization. More recently the Department of Agriculture has authoritatively made the same pronouncement in favor of a plan for certification of the worthy product, in the matter of the milk supply of cities. Bad and abusive language is very often mistaken by small minds for logic. Apparently the *Western Druggist* has fallen into this error, for it seems to think the men who have been advocating the proposed National Bureau plan are not serious, are exceedingly ignorant, and are to be discouraged simply by the explosive utterance of immoderate language. Stirracious editorials will not outweigh calm reason, and violent attack will not confute logic. If the editor of the *Western Druggist* will have the courtesy to give his reasons for attacking the proposed bureau, I shall be very glad to consider them; in the article referred to he has given none. This is to a certain extent a personal matter with me, for the reason that I am largely personally responsible for this particular feature of the plan of the proposed bureau.

PHILIP MILLS JONES.

To Merck & Co.

The practice engaged in by manufacturers of nostrums, of publishing in or with their advertisements, letters from fictitious persons or individuals of no particular standing or repute in their own com-

munities, is well known. That a first-class house, manufacturing medicinal preparations which it recommends to physicians the country over, should indulge in such questionable methods intentionally and with a purpose to deceive, seems hardly probable. Possibly Merck & Co. have expended some money carelessly. A recent advertisement of theirs reads as follows: "Dr. Carl L. Schilling, San Francisco, Cal., writes: 'I have been using for over two years, and cannot say too much of it. I prescribe it wherever a general tonic is indicated and with very good results.'" There is no such name as Carl L. Schilling to be found in any register of physicians. Polk, of the many errors, has listed a "Carl Schilling" who is indicated as having graduated from the Missouri College of Medicine in 1880. The last Register of California has neither "Carl" nor "Carl L." The former Secretary of the Board states that if the name is not found in the 1902 Register, the individual did not receive a license.

The present secretary's office has no knowledge of any such person having applied for a license under the present law. Either Merck & Co. have been mighty careless, or——? In any event, it rather looks as though an apology from them was due the medical profession of the country, and especially the medical profession of California.

The National Druggist—July, prints an editorial against the proposed establishment of a National Bureau of Medicines and Foods, (which, by the way, it does not like to think about). One sentence only, we quote: "What manufacturer of proprietaries would be willing to print the formulae of the articles on his labels (sic) or even to make them known to an irresponsible board?" The peculiar and touching inconsistency of the editor is shown by comparison with the editorial immediately following, headed "Sell goods for what they are", and is a plea against deception in the matter of *perfumes*! Any old way is all right for medicines, because they are only medicines; let the manufacturer put up whatsoever he pleases and call it what he will, and tell the truth about it or not, just as he chooses; it's *only* medicine.